



DECEMBER 2013 to January 2014

(Volume 48)



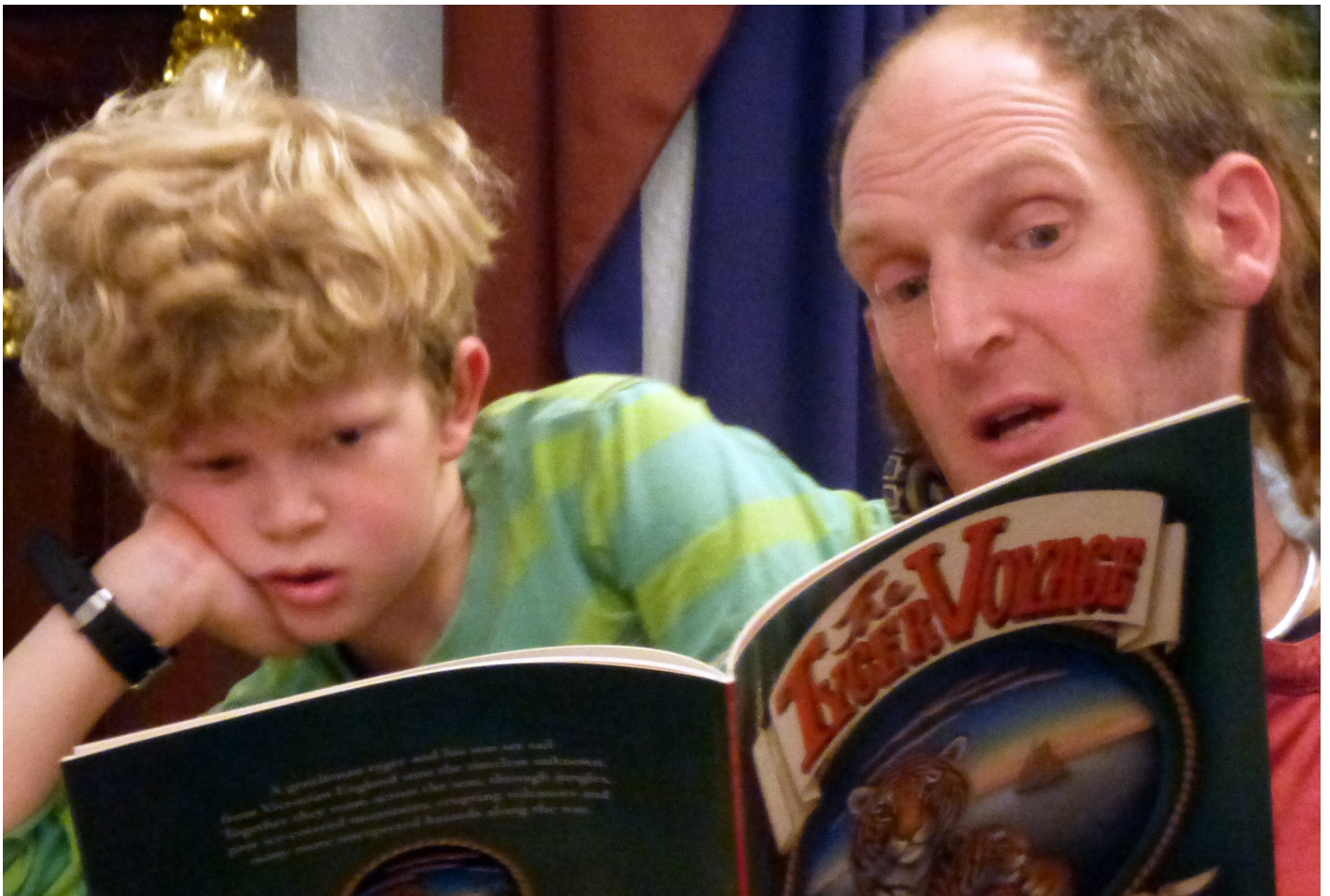


Great Xmas lights on a local house...you could see it for miles away



When the family come round one of my great pleasures is seeing their interaction together..... here, present opening and story time, means my camera is not obvious and these delightful shots reflect the lovely time of life called childhood





Totally immersed in Dad's story







Making
great
pancakes



chef's
approval



Kitchen fun



Around
the
house

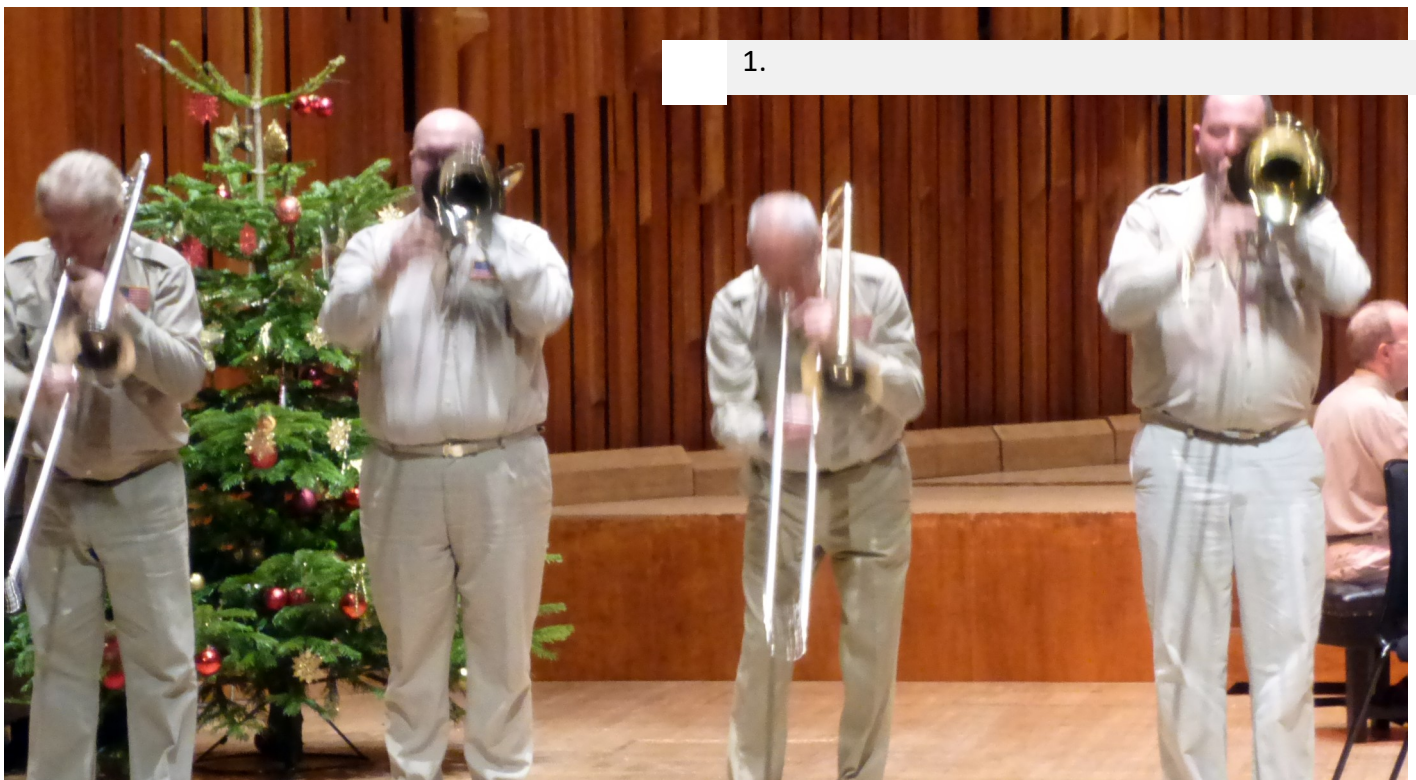


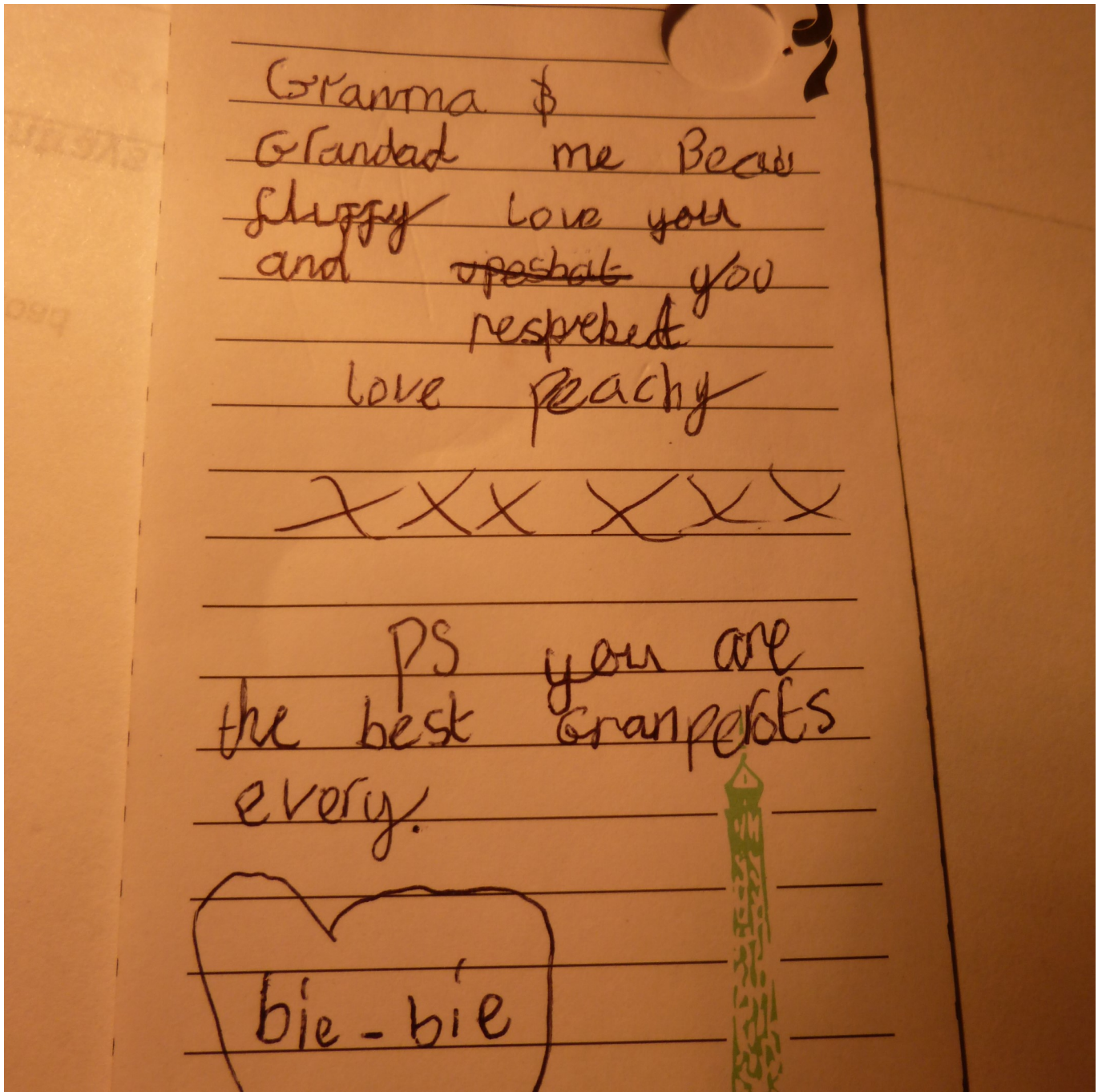


“...wow dad that’s a pretty impressive brain size”



We really enjoyed it until we noticed the entire audience were all old folk...not like us youngsters !!!





We love having the kids to stay
but when a 'thank you' like this
arrives it really makes you feel
life's great



Steve with his lovely smile
at Judy's party



This secret rocket
launch pad in
Winchmore Hill
was hardly noticed
by the locals



There is a favourite walk of ours
from Bayford to Hertford that is
very varied: from fields to woods
and then small open hills





With all the wet weather since Christmas there are lots of moss-covered trees and rocks



...and the fungi are really large
at the moment



Despite the mud and cold we still enjoyed
our flasks of hot tea and great sarnies.
Most folks would think we were mad



THIS MEMORIAL OF
PRIVATE AFFECTION AND OF PUBLIC SENTIMENT
IS INSCRIBED
TO HENRY BAKER, COMMANDER OF H.M. SLOOP PELICAN
WHO WITH JOHN DAVIS, HIS FIRST LIEUTENANT AND
FOUR OTHER MARINERS, UNFORTUNATELY PERISHED
ON THE 9TH OF JUNE 1804,
OFF MORANT BAY IN THE ISLAND OF JAMAICA
IN RESCUING FROM DESTRUCTION
THE ENTIRE CREW OF A SPANISH SCHOONER
THEN FOUNDERING AT SEA

A poignant memorial to a
brave boat crew who perished
in 1804 off Jamaica saving the
crew of a Spanish boat that
was in distress. This memorial
is hidden in the woods here
and they led by a local com-
mander



Is it only Lynn and I that see the
ambiguity of this sign???

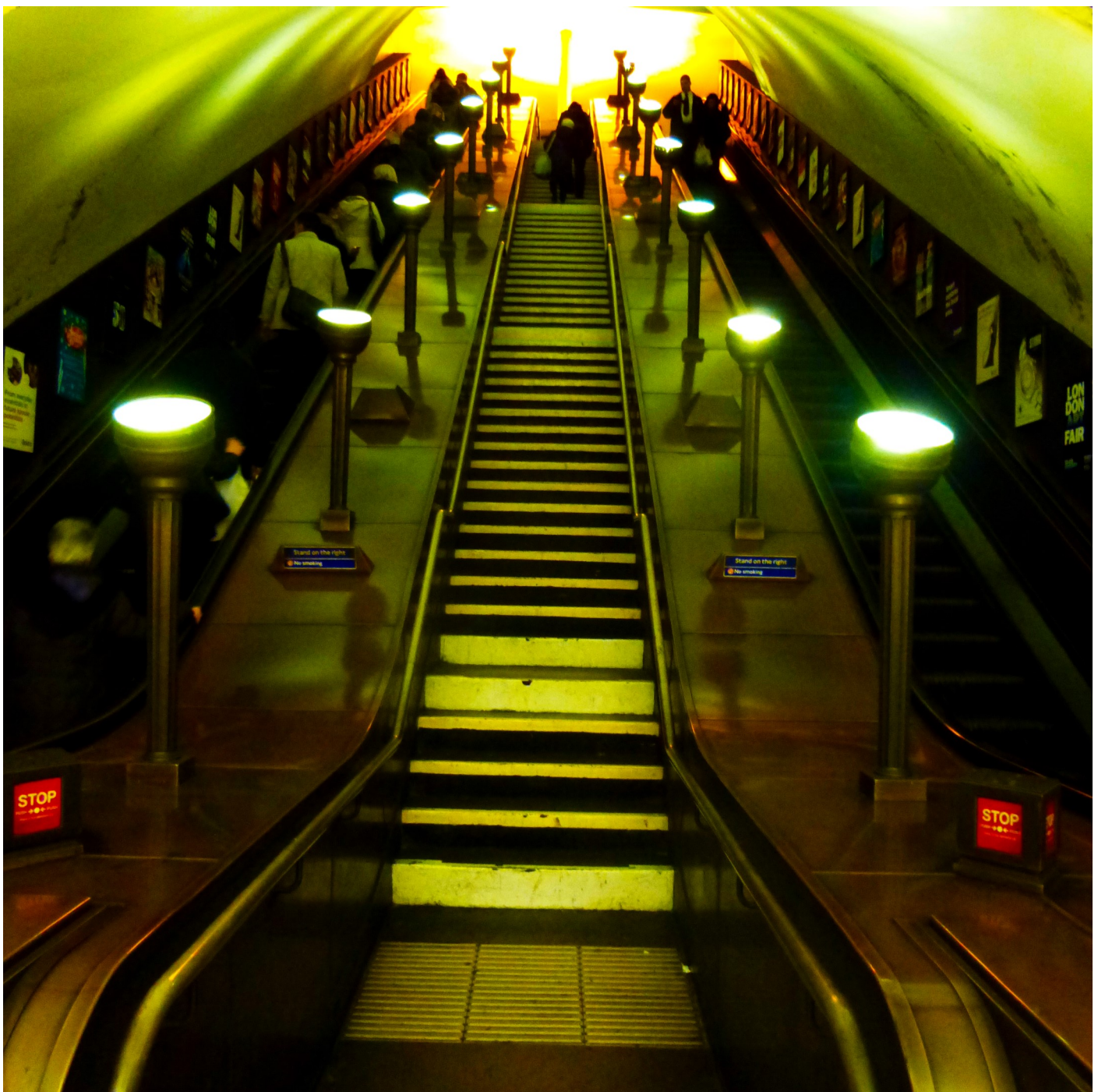
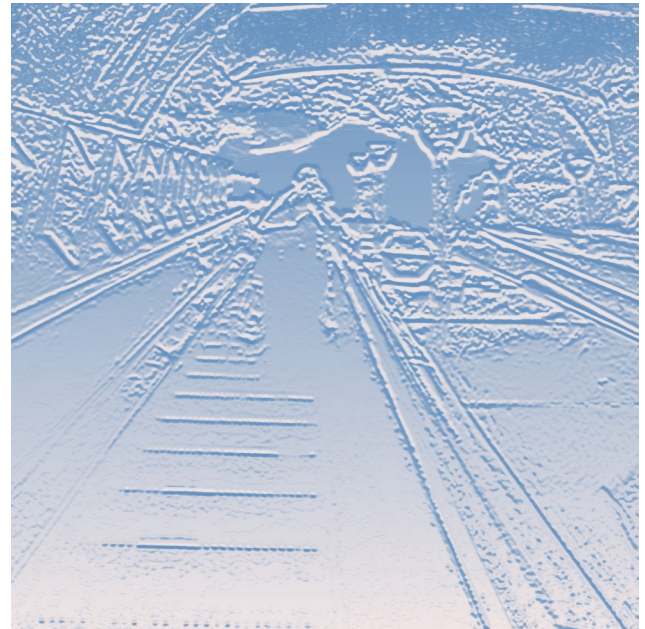


2014 and the London skyline is still full of cranes and ever climbing tower blocks





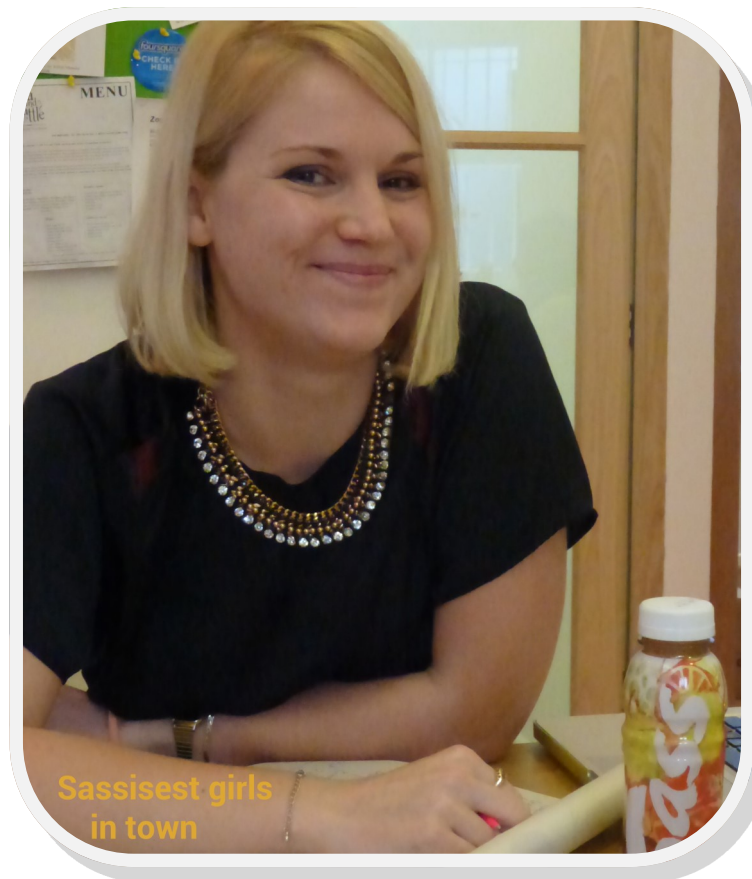
The escalators in Southgate station were faithfully restored a few years ago and they are an absolute delight







It is hard for man to improve on the shapes in nature as these wonderful fungi clearly show



Sassisest girls in town



SASSIEST girls in town



SASSIEST girls in town





I thought my namesake should have one of his paintings displayed on this crane outside his exhibition to attract crowds



My 70th at The Belvedere in Holland Park was great fun

It was real family day and it was totally special for me



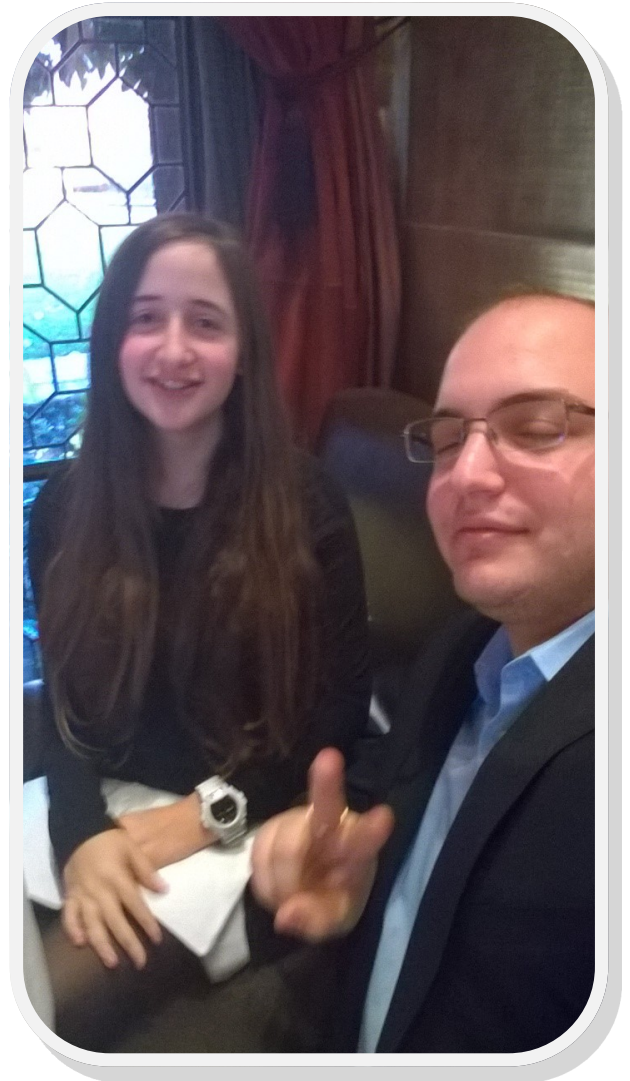


Photo History





Photo History







My lords, ladies
Gentlemen and
granddad





The Belvedere is such a lovely setting and the food was great too...but best of all was the company. With a family like ours we count our blessings





Martin, Doreen

Maxine, Stuart & Billie





Lynn & Ben

Sharon and Jo

Larnie with John





..."and if sir continues to be rude one may be compelled to give sir another bang on the head"





Photo History



On my 70th birthday...my child bride

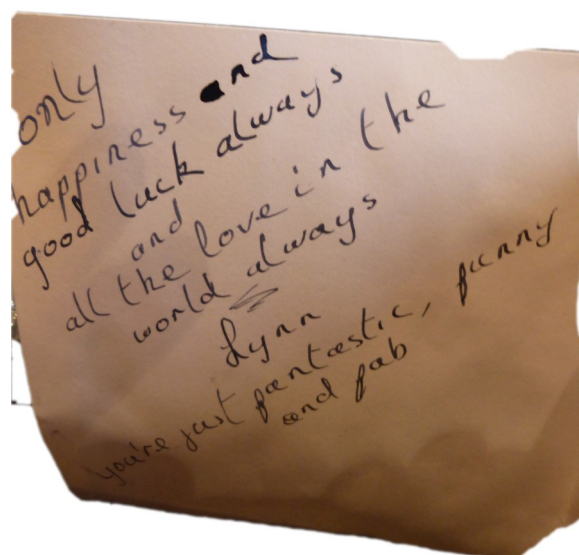




It was the best birthday ever
and Lynn's painting was a
total surprise



Even the card was home made





January 2014



A birthday present from DP ..a few days walking in Teignmouth in Cornwall .We had a fantastic time together. With kids like ours what more can one ask for



Ted Stourton, the owner of The Camelot Hotel is a prolific artist (DP even bought a painting) and is a fascinating character (even singing a ballad for us). The hotel was FULL of his paintings and was very atmospheric

Hotel canine security









Photo History





Photo History









Photo History

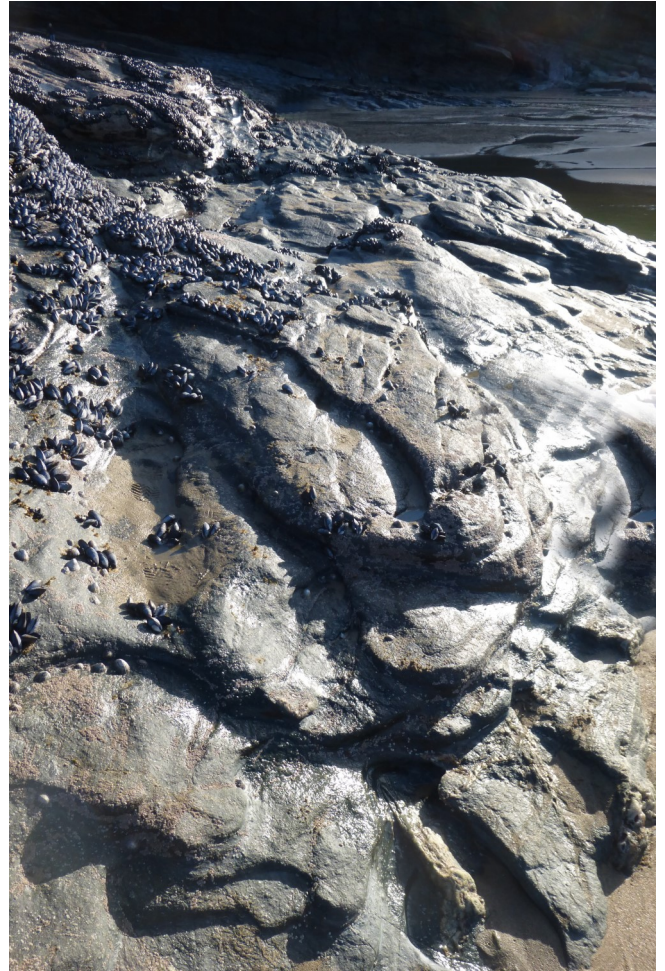






Photo History





The shetlands roaming the cliff tops weren't the only things that were totally drenched..





Photo History





Photo History



With beauty all
round us like this
it was a special
place just to sit
and enjoy life







Photo History

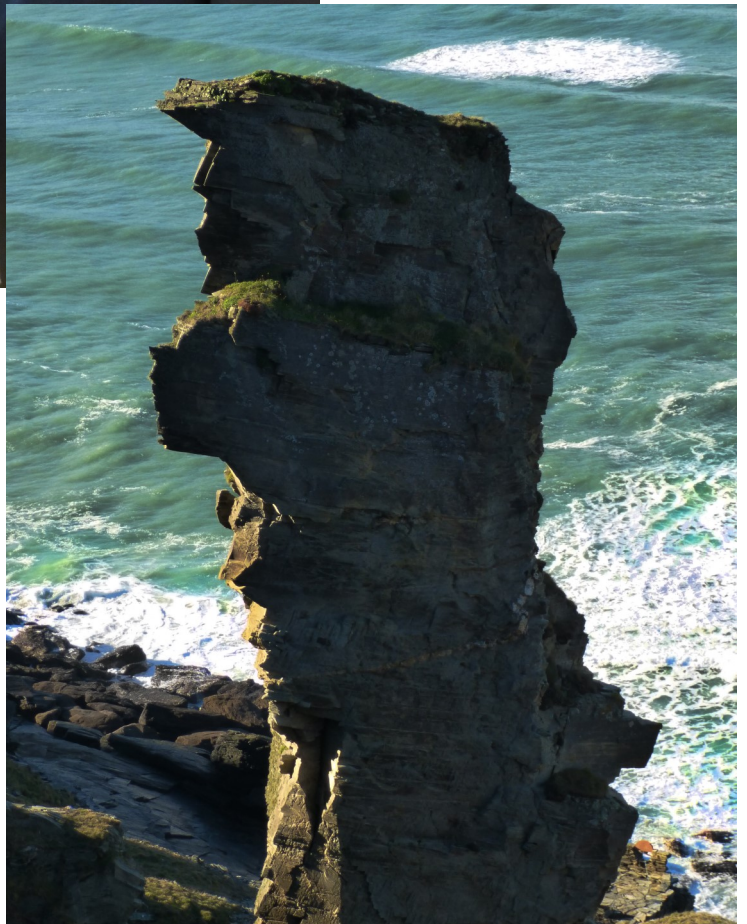




Photo History



FEB 15 - 17TH 10AM - 4PM
ON THE STRAND
OPPOSITE SOMERSET HOUSE

LIVE DJ SETS FROM FAKE CLUB +
THE GLITTER BEATS + GABBY YOUNG
LIVE STREAMED ON TV
FREE COCKTAILS + GIFT BAG
FREE EXCLUSIVE RODNIK X SHOPCADE T-SHIRT
CELEB GUESTS, MINI MAKEOVERS
BE PHOTOGRAPHED + FEATURED ON SHOPCADE

RSVP TO: RSVP@FORWARDPR.COM



FAKE CLUB

GABBY YOUNG
& OTHER FRIENDS



The Glitter Beats



FO
FM PRO

YOU'RE INVITED TO SHOPCADE'S
LONDON FASHION WEEK BUS PARTY





Photo History

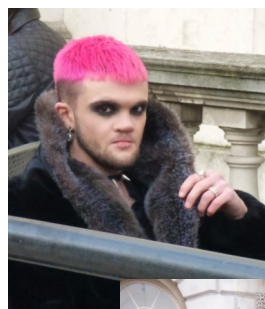
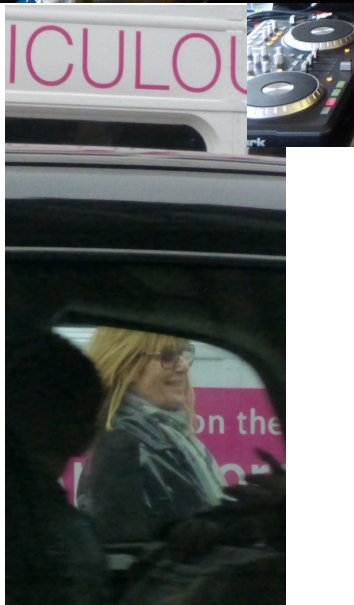




Photo History





Postscript.....It has been a pretty eventful start to 2014 in the UK with the wettest period in recoded history. The floods in the country were disastrous with some farms being under water for over 6 weeks. Besides the on-going problems they faced the problems of fields that will take a long while to recover. Many Thames-side towns and other areas were also inundated and added to the flooding damage was sewage pollution from drains which added another dimension to their misery. Many people were uninsured and faced losing everything. It is hard to imagine the misery that this has caused throughout the country.

The change in the weather patterns are being experienced worldwide and in the USA, for example there are variations from all-time record low freezing temperatures to droughts in other areas.

As a country we will have to plan for these eventualities and put into place more efficient united responses that are co-ordinated in one body which can react much more promptly. Many large companies and organisations have back-up facilities in place with totally separate IT systems that spring into action in the eventuality of a major incident. Something along this line will have to be introduced so that in the event of any incident there is a contingency pre-prepared plan of action in place. Our current blame culture is really quite useless. We do not need a scape- goat.. ...we need a plan of action.

On as personal level the kids came here for Xmas and have developed really delightful individual traits and personalities. Beau with his thoughtful ways and raising a glass to toast me at my party. Peachie with the lovely letters of thanks and cuddles without prompting. Larnie with her messages on line and delightful ways. Tammy with her zany phone calls and super-quick wit—always a cheerful antidote to a miserable day. DP with his thoughtful emails and calls and the wonderful thoughtful presents they all gave me for my birthday (Tea at the Ritz...an allotment...walking in Cornwall...and their presence at the family party for my 70th was so special.

Lynn, my darling, made my 70th a day to remember...the early morning breakfast table had the 'birthday toast' replaced by a scrumpy mini chocolate 70th gateau with a candle...*still sexy at 70*... Then followed a really wonderful present..a Georg Jensen black-faced watch and the most fantastic present ever...a painting that she had been doing in secret of the dual aspect of her hubby all framed and signed...I really appreciate this...so much thought and love. It was really special

DP gave me a most original gift that was incredibly thoughtful. ...a walking trip together ..just like old times. We met at Bristol station and it was hilarious when he left his famous over-trousers on the train only to have them returned via railway staff and different trains as we shot through Newton Abbot...a totally fabulous feat of co-ordination. The walk was memorable and the hotel was really quirky (see the photos) and we had a memorable time together.

Tammy and Ben secretly had arranged the allotment for me at the rear of their house and I kept on about this without knowing that they had already arranged it for me...what a great surprise.

The family meal at The Belvedere posed problems as to whom we should invite and we finally decided to keep it to 'just family' as there are so many wonderful friends that it would have made it impossible to arrange. The setting, service and food were splendid and the nicest thing about the lunch was the relaxed way that everyone got on so well together and that is a bonus and no amount of planning can cement that bond.

Mum had a fall when we took her home after a meal here and broke her hip. After 4 weeks in both Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals it was not possible for her to look after herself any more because of her lack of mobility and the onset of dementia so we managed to find Wellington Park Residential Home which is lovely and where she is now being well looked after

Despite the really wet weather Lynn and I have braved the elements and attired in really sexy waterproofs we squelched through mud and puddles that were mini rivers to enjoy our country walks with that great cuppa at the end.

The Ukraine are, at the time of writing, having a bloody time with 77 dead fighting against a corrupt regime where resistance (many unarmed) were shot by government troops and snipers. Yesterday there was a signed peace agreement but I can't see it holding until the president(?) resigns and a new government is formed...time will tell.

Apologies if this postscript is 'Ralph-centred' but I guess that is my prerogative as I write the bloody thing.

Finally, on a business front. Sass is slowly, slowly getting established and on the next page are some shots Lynn and I got at London Fashion Week. The catering has been neglected a bit and I am currently advertising the business for sale. **Feb 2014**